

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed May 22, 2003. Claims 1-19 were examined in the Office Action and all were rejected. Claims 1, 3-5, and 9-19 have been amended. New claims 20-23 have been added. No claims have been canceled. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15, 16, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hickman et al. (U.S. 5,361,361, hereinafter "Hickman"). Independent claims 1, 10, 11-12 and 16 have been amended and Applicants respectfully submit that the Hickman reference does not teach each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 10, 11-12 and 16. Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claim 1 is drawn to a method of searching for a help utility, comprising among other features, the steps of (1) searching one or more databases of a plurality of help utilities and (2) finding a help utility matching the keywords. The databases recited in Applicants' claimed invention include the actual help utilities such as wizards and help files. In contrast, Hickman teaches traversing a directory containing only an outline of help file topics but not containing the actual help files as recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore, the directories of Hickman are traversed to find "topics" that match search criteria or strings but not to find a help utility matching the keywords. (See column 4, lines 35-40 and column 8, lines 35-40 of Hickman). Thus, Hickman does not teach searching databases of a plurality of help utilities and finding a help utility matching the keywords as recited in Applicants' amended claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Hickman.

Because amended claims 2, 4-5, 9 and claims 6-8 inherit the language of amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 2, 4-5, 9 and claims 6-8 are also allowable over Hickman at least for this reason.

Furthermore with regard to amended claim 2, the Office Action states that Hickman discloses selecting one of all help utilities found to match keywords. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that although Hickman collects all matching "topics" as the set of

selected topic designators, Hickman does not teach selecting one of all help utilities found to match keywords as recited in amended claim 2. Hickman teaches selecting a topic before the search and making the results of the search, whether one or multiple topics, the set of selected topic designators thereby not requiring additional selection after the search. (See column 8, lines 37-41). Thus amended claim 2 is allowable over Hickman for at least this reason also.

Also with regard to amended claim 4, Applicants' claimed invention is drawn to the method of Claim 1, further comprising, among other features, the steps of (1) if after the step of searching one or more databases of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords but a related help utility is found, then displaying the related help utility and (2) invoking the related help utility. The Office Action states that Hickman discloses finding and displaying a related help utility. Applicants' respectfully disagree and submit that Hickman does not teach or suggest finding a related help utility when no help utility is found matching the keywords. Hickman teaches the display of topics and subtopics matching the search criteria, but does not address what happens when the search criteria cannot be matched. (See column 7, lines 6-11). Thus amended claim 4 is allowable over Hickman also for at least this reason.

With regard to amended claim 5, the reference cited on page 4, lines 1-3 of the Office Action regarding figure 1 and the corresponding text of Hickman does not mention help utilities provided by a computer operating system. Thus Applicants' respectfully submit that Hickman does not teach or suggest a plurality of help utilities including help utilities provided by a computer operating system. Thus amended claim 5 is allowable over Hickman for at least this reason also.

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claim 10 is drawn to a method of searching for a function wizard, comprising, among other features, the steps of (1) searching one or more databases of wizards according to the search keywords and (2) finding a wizard matching the search keywords. As described above with regard to amended claim 1, Hickman teaches the searching of directories for help file topics that match search criteria, but does not mention wizards or teach searching databases of the actual wizards and finding a wizard matching the search keywords as recited in amended claim 10. Thus amended claim 10 is allowable over Hickman.

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claim 11 is drawn to a method of searching for a function wizard, comprising, among other features, the steps of (1) initiating a search within the one or more databases of a plurality of functions for a function wizard matching one of the plurality of functions based on the search terms. As described above with regard to amended claims 1 and 10, Hickman teaches searching directory files for help file topics, not searching within the one or more databases of a plurality of the actual functions for a function wizard. Thus amended claim 11 is also allowable over Hickman.

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claim 12 is drawn to a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform, among other features, the steps of (1) searching one or more databases of a plurality of help utilities and (2) finding a help utility matching the keywords. As described above with regard to amended claims 1, 10 and 11, Hickman teaches searching directory files for help file topics, not searching one or more databases of a plurality of help utilities. Thus amended claim 12 is also allowable over Hickman.

Because amended claims 13-15 inherit the language of amended claim 12, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 13-15 are also allowable over Hickman at least for this reason.

Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claim 16 is drawn to a system for searching for a help utility, comprising a computer program module operative, among other features, (1) to search one or more databases of a plurality of help utilities and (2) to find a help utility matching at least one of the search terms. As described above with regard to amended claims 1, 10, 11 and 12, Hickman teaches searching directory files for help file topics, not searching one or more databases of a plurality of help utilities. Thus amended claim 12 is also allowable over Hickman.

Because amended claims 17-19 inherit the language of amended claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 17-19 are also allowable over Hickman at least for this reason.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 9, 14, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hickman in view of Hita et al. (US Patent 6,081,774, hereinafter "Hita"). The Office Action acknowledges that Hickman does not disclose Applicants' claimed invention as recited in amended claims 3, 14, and 18. However, the Office Action also states that Hita does disclose (1) if after the step of searching one or more databases of a plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog, (2) inputting additional keywords directed to one of the plurality of help utilities, and (3) searching the databases of a plurality of help utilities. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that Hita fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hickman because neither Hickman nor Hita teach or suggest searching one or more databases of a plurality of help utilities as recited in amended independent claims 1, 12, and 16. Hita teaches finding query "topics" within an "index", but not searching databases of a plurality of help files (See column 39, lines 14-17 of Hita).

Because amended claims 3, 14, and 18 respectfully inherit the language of amended independent claims 1, 12, and 16, Hickman is also deficient with respect to amended claims 3, 14 and 18. Thus, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the repeat steps for searching a database of the plurality of help utilities in the system of Hickman as taught by Hita. Neither Hickman nor Hita either alone or in combination teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in amended claims 3, 14, and 18. Thus, amended claims 3, 14, and 18 are not made obvious by Hickman in view of Hita for at least this reason.

Regarding amended claim 9, the Office Action states that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a plurality of languages use to input for searching a database of a plurality of help utilities in the system of Hickman as taught by Hita. Applicants' respectfully disagree and submit, as described above with respect to amended claim 1, that Hickman and Hita are both deficient with respect to amended claim 1. Because amended claim 9 inherits the language of amended claim 1, Hita is also deficient with respect to amended claim 9. Thus, neither Hickman nor Hita, either alone or in combination teach or suggest

Applicant's claimed invention as recited in amended claim 9. Thus, amended claim 9 is also allowable over Hickman in view of Hita at least for this reason.

New Claims

New claims 20-23 are supported in the specification and have been added to provide claims of a varying scope from those initially filed. Applicants assert that these new claims are also allowable over the cited references.

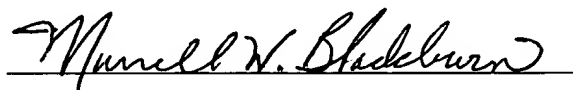
Conclusion

As originally filed, the present application included 19 claims, 5 of which were independent. As amended, the present application now includes 23 claims, 6 of which are independent. It is believed that fees due with this Response will cover 1 additional independent claim and 4 dependent claims as indicated in the fee calculations on the transmittal form. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

As all claims now in the application are in condition for allowance, Applicants request the application be allowed and pass to issuance as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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